

# Mission



# News

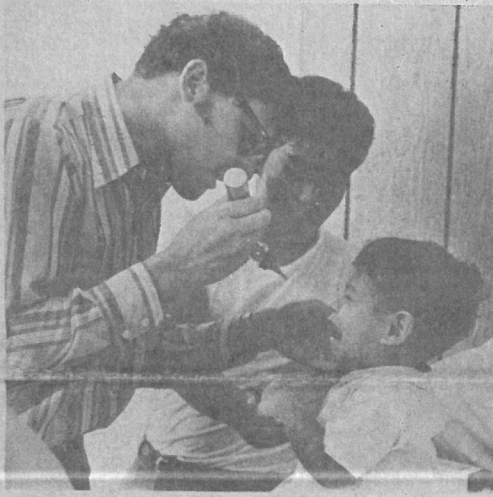
Encouraging Lay Men, Women and Youth to Discover Their Ministry

Volume 2

ACTION FOR CHRIST, INC. — APRIL 1972

NUMBER 6

PHOTOS TELL THE STORY  
... There's work for everyone!



**MEDICAL MISSIONS VOLUNTEER** — Dr. David Beesinger of San Antonio, medical missions volunteer, treats a sick child in medical mobile clinic set up at a church near Harlingen. While Dr. Beesinger and Dr. James Brock of Valley Mills, medical missionary to Yemen, tended the sick, Valley Mills Baptist youth conducted Bible schools and a revival that resulted in 55 decisions for Christ. Many doctors and dentists are giving their time and talents to treat thousands of needy-sick each year in mobile clinics sponsored by Amigos Internacionales through the Texas Baptist River Ministry.

## Retired Electrician Finds Many Outlets for His Skills

BY FRANK GAULT

Ernest F. Ahlin, who retired as an engineering contractor in California, certainly has not retired from missions work.

Now living in Arlington, he has recently returned from a month of volunteer work in Laredo, Texas, and Nuevo Laredo, Mexico. This is just one of several trips he has made to the Rio Grande area of Texas and Mexico to assist churches with their electrical wiring and to share Christ.

Ahlin first became interested in the border ministries when James Johnson, president of Action for Christ, Inc., began organizing work groups from Arlington's First Baptist Church

to go to the Valley to assist in building projects and witnessing.

During the past three years, Ahlin has made several trips on his own when his services were needed. He has gone to Rio Grande City twice to assist in wiring Temple Bautista for air conditioning, saving the congregation approximately \$2,000. Two years ago he wired a girls' orphanage in Brownsville. Last year he did the wiring for an orphanage in Matamoros, Mexico; here he supplied all the materials because the church could not afford them.

During his recent month of volunteer work, he did wiring for Primera Iglesia Bautista and

Mission Bautista Emmanuel in Laredo, and for Primera Iglesia Bautista and Iglesia Bautista Emmanuel in Nuevo Laredo.

M. C. Mojica, missionary for the two Laredos, explained the significance of this project: "The congregations and pastors are very grateful for the help Brother Ahlin gave them. Much of the work would have had to wait until the people had money enough to do it. The Iglesia Bautista Emmanuel is under construction, and he was there just at the right time to do most of the wiring. I would guess that he saved the congregation somewhere in the vicinity of \$1,000."

Ahlin moved to Arlington from California six years ago because his daughter lived there. He has been active in Arlington's First Baptist Church since. He is currently president of the church's Senior Adult Fellowship Organization, teaches Sunday school, and often speaks to other church groups on Christian involvement. In addition, he is the circulation manager of MISSION ACTION NEWS. Ahlin's future plans include working with the lay witness missions and working in some revivals.

"Dedication to the Lord is the only answer to why one can become so involved," explained the 73-year old Ahlin. When told that he seemed to be extremely active for someone who is retired, he quickly added, "That's the way I want it." — Frank Gault is a columnist at the University of Texas at Arlington.

### CLINIC EQUIPPED

## Gift to Benefit Many

By JIM W. JONES

FORT WORTH

When it comes to helping others, denominational barriers are easily overcome.

This was proved not long ago when an Episcopal layman, Dr. John Tottenham, gave a doctor's

office full of equipment to help in the Texas Baptist River Ministry's mobile clinic program.

Laymen from Wichita Street Baptist Church of Fort Worth picked up the equipment, which included X-ray and electrocardiogram instruments, a microscope, medicines and many other smaller tools of the medical trade.

Dr. Tottenham heard of the need for the equipment through one of his patients, the Rev. Don Dickerson, pastor of the Wichita Street church.

Now the equipment is being put into a new mobile medical clinic.

Turn to They're Ready on Page 4



**MISSIONS BY AIR** — Hardy Waddill (left), flight school operator and member of Fairview Baptist Church of Grand Prairie, Texas, gets an assist from Elmin Howell, coordinator for Texas Baptist River Ministry, in loading Waddill's plane. Waddill flew

about 400 pounds of clothing, scraps and other materials to Zapata on the Rio Grande for use in Mighty River Handicrafts, a missions venture sponsored by the River Ministry. (Related Story on Page 4.)

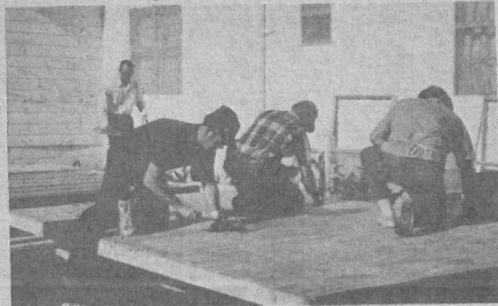
—Photos by Orville Scott

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**THE FLOOR CREW** — A base for a prefabricated building is put together in Zapata, Texas, by members of a Dallas church who set up two of the buildings as a missions project.

## 'They're Ready'

Continued from Page 1

What's left over will be used in other mobile clinics.

Laymen from the Fort Worth church taking part in the project included Don Sturgis, a radio broadcaster; Adrian Bullard, a General Dynamics employee; Willard James, Fort Worth city health department employee; and Ed Baker, post office employee.

Also, Ray Pittman, a retail buyer; Jim Ware, a federal employee; David Ross, IBM employee; Dale Dickerson, military employee; Don Bean, a Fort Worth city engineer; Dewey Norris, a bookkeeper; Bob Prater, financial estimator; and Harold Cook, a truck driver.

Jim Wren at Athens, a leader of Amigos Internacionales, said the doctor's equipment, if it had to be purchased, would cost about \$25,000, said Dickerson.

The minister of the Wichita Street church is obviously proud

of his layman forces.

"They're ready to go anytime," he said, noting that the church has had 18 River Ministry responsibilities in the last few years.

"We've been to the river four consecutive Easters," he said. Last Easter they went to Hebronville, 150 miles south of San Antonio, and installed 28 fiberglass windows in a Spanish mission church.

When Hurricane Celia hit the Gulf Coast, 35 laymen in the Fort Worth church responded to a quick invitation to help out.

They put roofs on four church buildings in the Corpus Christi area, said Dickerson.

"We don't just meet and eat. When we meet now, we are ready to do something."

—Jim W. Jones is suburban editor of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

## REVIVED CLASS PLANS ANOTHER PROJECT

# Urge to 'Do Something' Satisfied

**DALLAS** Members of R. A. Williams' Sunday School Class at Shiloh Terrace Baptist Church in Dallas decided that they needed to do more than have Bible study and talk about Christian involvement each Sunday. As a result they have completed one mission project in the Rio Grande area of Texas and are planning another.

When class members decided they wanted to do some work for the Lord, they approached Elmin Howell who is the coordinator of the Texas Baptist River Ministries for the Baptist General Convention of Texas and a member of Williams' class. He had several projects in mind.

The class's first project was erecting two 9 feet by 12 feet, skid-mounted, prefabricated buildings for the First Baptist Mission in Zapata, Texas. Mrs. W. D. Shores, wife of the church's pastor, has been teaching the local women how to make handicrafts for sale as a mission project of the church. Through this project she has won several women to Christ. The two buildings, donated by Harold Cain of Fort Worth, were needed to store and display the completed items.

The men left Dallas on Friday afternoon of the second week in January with the buildings on a flat-bed truck, and drove all night to reach Zapata. After a couple of hours of sleep, they worked all day Saturday erecting the buildings. They put on the finishing touches Sunday and returned to Dallas to their jobs on Monday.

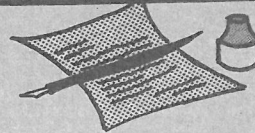
The class members are now planning a second project. They will go to Nuevo Laredo to enlarge the parsonage for the pastor of First Baptist Church. The current parsonage has two rooms to house seven people. They are planning to add a bedroom and a bathroom, install indoor plumbing, and provide outlets for a washing machine that will be donated by a Sunday school class of Sagamore Hills Baptist Church in Fort Worth.

The project at Zapata was spiritually enriching to the seven class members who made the trip because they were used by God to answer prayer.

"When Mrs. Shores looked at the buildings with tears in her eyes, she said, 'When you see two buildings spring up before you in one day, after you have prayed for them for two or three years, you know that the days of miracles

are not ended.' It meant much to me to be a part of God's answer to her prayers," explained Gene Whitten, one of the men who made the trip.

The mission projects have been meaningful to Williams' class in another way. It has grown from an average attendance of four or five to 16. The members have discovered how rewarding it can be to let God use them to do His work.



*Our  
Readers  
Write...*

*The MISSION ACTION NEWS staff, being reasonably human, enjoys a pat on the back. We appreciate these letters of praise and encouragement; we'll tolerate letters of criticism. Most of all, however, we hope to stimulate your interest in missionary Christian service.*

Dear Sirs:

We are having a men's meeting to see if we can't get the men of our church totally committed to serve Christ and to doing many things similar to the items in your paper. We hope to be able to participate in some of the building and other programs you list...

**Robert Allen Pruitt**  
Chairman of Bus Ministry  
First Baptist Church  
Bridge City, Texas

Dear Sirs:

Your publication has generated a great deal of interest in missions and could be the cohesive force in activating adult mission work.

**M. Douglas Adkins**  
Attorney  
Dallas, Texas

Dear Sirs:

I am very glad to have my name on the mailing list for your paper... It is a real inspiration to read what some Baptist men are doing and to know that someone is really

interested in missions. We in Oklahoma will be praying for your success there as you try to increase your program to reach and help more people...

**Lindsey Campbell**  
Past President,  
Baptist Men of Oklahoma  
Sapulpa, Okla.

Dear Sirs:

We appreciate your paper, MISSION ACTION NEWS, very much and believe that it would be good for our active church workers to receive in their homes to inspire more personal mission action.

We are enclosing a listing of our active deacons, junior deacons, and Sunday School workers which we hope you will be able to put on your mailing list...

**T. D. McCulloch**  
Minister of Education  
First Baptist Church  
Texarkana, Texas

Dear Sirs:

As coordinator of the Texas River Ministry Program of the Mexican Mission of the Foreign Mission Board, S.B.C., I find the paper most helpful in keeping up with the happenings not only of the river, but all over Texas...

**James M. Short Jr.**  
5228 Edmonton Ave.  
El Paso, Texas

Dear Sirs:

I have received two copies of your MISSION ACTION NEWS and must say it is one of the most comprehensive little papers concerning Love in Action I've seen. May God continue to bless your ministry in this manner...

**Mrs. Milton Tutor**  
New Albany, Miss.

Dear Sirs:

During registration for our spring semester here at East Texas Baptist College, our Baptist Student Union director handed out copies of (October issue)... Thank you for the fine work you are doing through this publication. The articles were of very keen interest to me and I will read future issues with interest...

**Dr. Charles E. Sharp**  
Associate Professor  
East Texas Baptist College  
Marshall, Texas

**PASTOR** ... are there men and women in your church who should be receiving MISSION ACTION NEWS? If you'll give us their names and addresses, we'll see that they receive their own copy regularly.

**MISSION ACTION NEWS**

Box 1204

Arlington, Texas 76010

Several laymen's groups have provided information concerning their activities to the MISSION ACTION NEWS office. You can obtain information directly from any of these groups or by writing MISSION ACTION NEWS, Box 1204, Arlington, Texas 76010.

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Gentlemen:

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